



## Member Societies

The American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Nutritional Sciences

The American Association of Immunologists

Biophysical Society

American Association of Anatomists

The Protein Society

The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

American Society for Clinical Investigation

The Endocrine Society

The American Society of Human Genetics

Society for Developmental Biology

## Associate Members

American Peptide Society

Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities

Society for the Study of Reproduction

Teratology Society

Radiation Research Society

Society for Gynecologic Investigation

Environmental Mutagen Society

International Society for Computational Biology

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## Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

----Quality Life Through Research----

### STATEMENT BY FASEB PRESIDENT, DR. ROBERT WELLS, IN SUPPORT OF THE PEER REVIEW SYSTEM AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**Nov. 5, 2003; Bethesda, Md.** — The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) representing 22 professional societies, consisting of more than 65,000 biomedical research scientists, wishes to express its continued support for the peer-review system at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Although recent news stories concerning political interference in the grant review process at NIH appear to have stemmed from a miscommunication between Congress and NIH staff, the controversy has served to highlight the importance of protecting the scientific integrity of NIH merit review from politically or ideologically motivated attack.

The biomedical research supported by NIH over the past fifty years has made the United States the world leader in science and medicine. We retain that position in large part due to rigorous peer-review of research proposals that seek to investigate public health and disease. Any short-term compromise of the peer-review process, through implicit intimidation or explicit direction in support of a politically motivated agenda, is a direct threat to the biomedical research enterprise, at-risk populations and the health of our fellow citizens. Many of the grants that have come under scrutiny involve HIV / AIDS research and studies of high risk communities. It is essential for the health of the public that such investigations are performed among those populations that are most at risk of transmitting and being infected by HIV, including homosexuals, drug addicts, sex workers and others. Science dictates that, in conducting research to understand this and other dread diseases, one must study the populations who are most vulnerable.

We are all living longer, healthier lives, in no small part due to the funding of peer-reviewed biomedical research at NIH. FASEB fervently hopes that the Federal government, from the Administration to HHS to Congress, will continue to thwart any attempt to compromise the integrity of scientific research funded by NIH.

*FASEB is comprised of 22 societies with more than 65,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve — through their research— the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists in those areas related to public policy; facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies; and, disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.*